

Karluk River

Land Status & Public Use Information

Located on the southwest end of Kodiak Island approximately one hour by air from the city of Kodiak, the Karluk River area provides excellent opportunities for fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other wilderness activities.

The Karluk River is 22 miles long. Though all but the lower 8 miles of the river are located within the boundary of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), all of the lands adjacent to the river, the northern portion of Karluk Lake, and most of the land surrounding Karluk Lagoon are privately owned. Public use trail and site easements (**shown on the attached map**) have been reserved at intervals along the river to provide reasonable access to the remaining public land and major waterways. In addition, during 2002 Koniag, Inc., which owns most lands adjacent to the river, KNWR and the State of Alaska negotiated an agreement creating a conservation easement on Koniag lands. To facilitate public use of the easement zone within the KNWR boundary, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has implemented a cost-free permit system for use of lands within ½ mile of Karluk Lake and Karluk River (**see map**). In the past, the other private land owner, Karluk Tribal Council, which owns the uplands adjacent to the lower 3 miles of the Karluk River and most of the private property surrounding Karluk Lagoon, has also implemented a permit program to allow public use of their lands.

Following are answers to some frequently asked questions regarding access and use of Karluk Lake and River for public recreation.

When do I need to get a KNWR permit to use Karluk River and Karluk Lakeshore?

A permit is required at all times to use easement lands within ½ mile of Karluk Lake and Karluk River for recreational purposes.

Are there any other permits I will need for the Karluk River downstream of the KNWR boundary?

No additional permit is needed if you have obtained the appropriate KNWR permit and plan on floating and fishing the Karluk River between the KNWR boundary and Karluk Lagoon within a single day. As part of your KNWR permit, you also are permitted to camp for a single night at any one of three designated campsites (**see map**) adjacent to the river on Koniag, Inc. lands. However, additional permits will be needed if you wish to access and use Koniag, Inc. lands for an extended time period or if, at any time, you wish to access and use Karluk Tribal Government land. For more information contact:

Koniag, Inc., 202 Center Avenue,
Suite 201, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-2530

Karluk IRA Traditional Council
Box 22, Karluk, Alaska 99608
(907) 241-2218

Where can I obtain a permit to use easement lands along Karluk River and Karluk Lake?

Non-guided visitors can apply for a free KNWR permit by visiting the following web page:

<http://alaska.fws.gov/KarlukRiverApp/default.htm>

and by calling (888) 407-3514 or (907) 487-2600, or by writing or visiting the KNWR headquarters office located at 1390 Buskin River Road, Kodiak, Alaska 99615.

Guided visitors need to obtain a free KNWR permit from Koniag, Inc.'s authorized guides. For a listing of guides contact Koniag Inc. at the previously listed address and telephone.

Are there limits on the number of permits available to non-guided and guided visitors?

Yes, but only between June 10 and July 15, called the limited entry period, which coincides with the peak of the king salmon run. During this period, total daily permits will be limited to 28 for non-guided visitors and 42 for guided visitors.

During the remainder of the year, referred to as the registration period, there are no daily or overall limits on the number of guided and non-guided visitors.

How long can I stay?

A maximum stay of 7 days is allowed during the limited entry period, including six days within the easement zone and one day downstream of the KNWR boundary.

There is no limit on length of stay during the registration period.

What is the annual deadline to apply for a limited entry permit?

Application period: October 1 – December 15*.

Drawing date: January 7.

*Applications must be received by KNWR no later than December 15.

What happens if there are additional permits available for the limited entry period after the lottery drawing?

If you applied for but were not awarded a limited entry permit, you can re-apply for a permit if any remain after the lottery drawing.

Can I apply for an easement zone permit more than one year in advance of my planned visit?

No.

Can I apply for more than one trip during the limited entry period?

No.

Can I apply for a group (party) permit and submit one application for the four members in my party, or do I have to submit a separate application for each person?

During the limited entry period a single application can be submitted for a group.

During the registration period each visitor must complete a separate permit application form.

Are there limits on group size?

During the limited entry period group size is limited to a total of 6 persons.

During the registration period there are no limits on group size.

Can I start my visit prior to June 10 and extend it into the limited entry period or, conversely, start my visit during the limited entry period and extend it past July 15?

Yes, however, in both cases you will need to have a limited entry permit for the period of your visit between June 10 and July 15, and also a registration permit for any time spent on either end of the limited entry period.

Will visitors permitted during the limited entry period who encounter weather delays lose time from their allotted trip?

No. Visitors prevented from accessing easement lands to start their trip because of poor weather will be allowed a permit extension. For example, a party permitted for a five-day trip between July 1-5 who, due to bad weather, were unable to access the Karluk until July 3, would be granted a two-day extension to allow them to complete the originally planned 5 day trip.

I am planning several trips to the Karluk River this year during the registration period. Do I need a new permit for each of these trips?

Yes.

I am planning on floating the Karluk River to Karluk Lagoon. Where I can camp along the river once I am downstream of the easement zone boundary?

Once you obtain a KNWR permit you are allowed to camp for a single night at any one of the following three designated overnight campsites (**see map**):

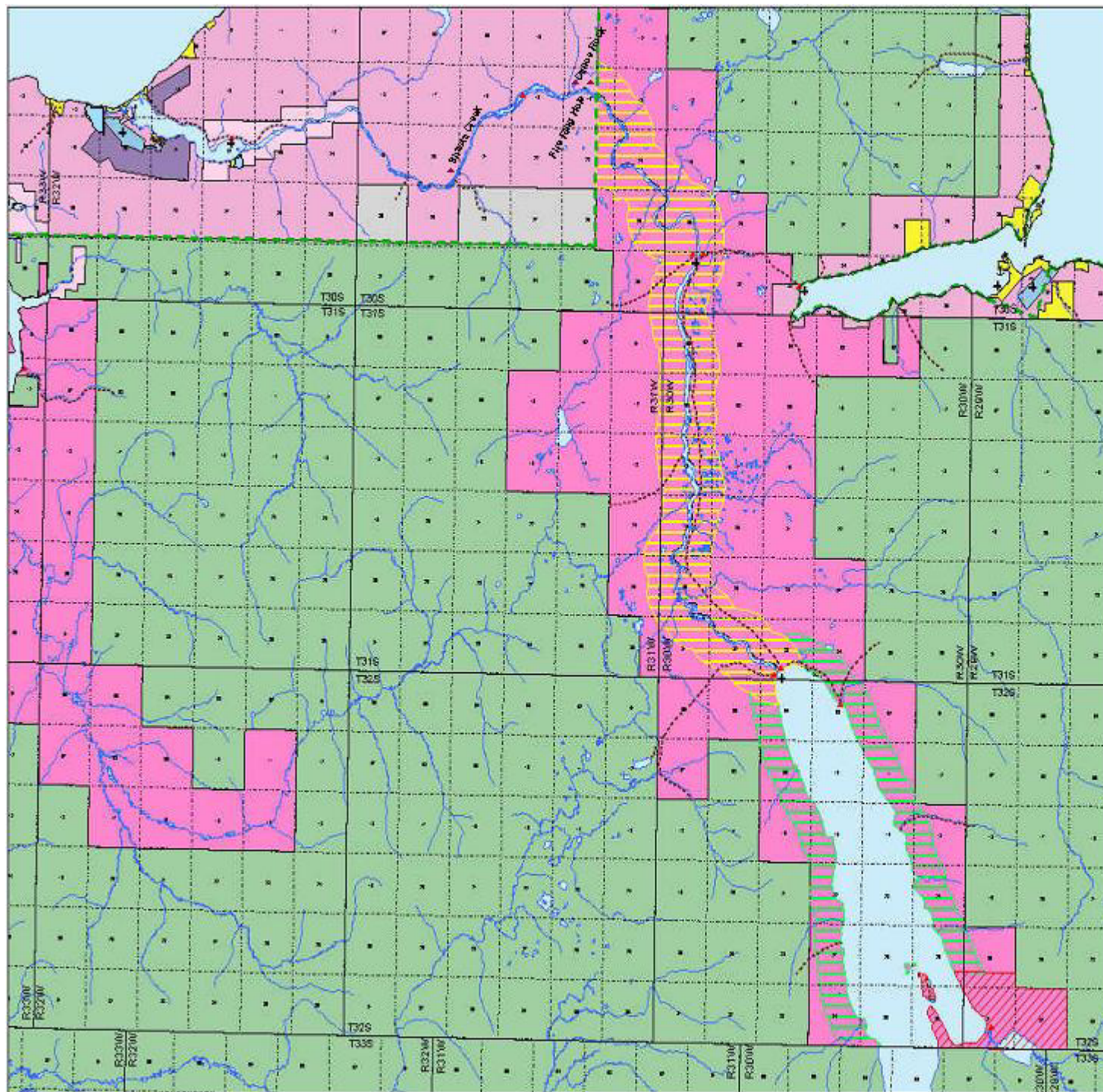
1. Fire Ring Hole
2. Canoe Rock
3. Shasta Creek

Additionally, you may camp for a single night at a one-acre public easement located between the second and third designated campsites. You should contact Koniag, Inc. and the Karluk Tribal Government for information on the availability of public access and use permits for down river lands outside the designated campsites and one-acre public easement.

Where can I camp in Karluk Lagoon as I end my trip?

There is a one acre public easement, located at the float plane pick-up site along the northeast shore of Karluk Lagoon, that can also be used as a campsite for a single night. Fifteen acres of state-owned land located along the southeast shore of the lagoon (directly across from the public easement - **see map**) are also available for public use, including camping for up to 14 consecutive days.





Karluk Easement Lands and Permit Zones

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

- Limited Entry Permit (June 10 - July 15)
Registration Permit (July 16 - June 9)
 - Registration Permit
 - Closed Area
 - Karluk Tribal Council
 - Koniag, Inc.
 - Koniag Conservation Easement
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - State of Alaska
 - Municipal
 - Other
 - Kodiak Refuge Boundary
 - 17b Easement Trails
 - 17b Easement Campsite
 - Boat Launch
 - Airstrip
 - Designated Campsite
- 0 1 2 3 Miles



CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
OF CONSERVATION

